

Ukraine War Reveals the Ugly Face of Racism in Europe

Page 3

Report

Outcry after U.S. senator calls for Putin's assassination

Senior American Senator Lindsey Graham's calls for the assassination of a head of state, Russian President Vladimir Putin, has sparked widespread condemnation and reflect another example of Washington's failure to adhere to the rules of law within the international community.

Yes, the White House tried to distance itself from the remarks made by the South Carolina Senator saying they do not reflect the position of the United States.

And yes, some congress members did come out and criticize Lindsey Graham's remarks. The problem is that his statements do represent American foreign policy.

Graham, who is widely viewed as an influential Senator within the Republican Party on military and foreign-policy matters, made public what many senators and American foreign policymakers think privately.

Speaking to American media, Graham called for a hit job on a sovereign independent head of state saying "I'm hoping someone in Russia will understand ... you need to take this guy out back any means possible."

The hawkish Senator carried on with his threatening rhetoric, telling American media that Russians must "rise up and take [Putin] down."

He also carried on his intimidating statements on social media platforms, making similar calls against the Russian President. Another question here of course is can you actually intimate the Russian President? That's an issue for another day.

The Senator's statements also reflect the inability of the United States to think, act and behave rationally at times of crisis.

As the Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov put it "unfortunately, in such an extremely tense atmosphere, and even more so in countries such as the United States, a hysterical Russophobic fit is being whipped up. These days, not everyone manages to maintain sobriety, I would even say sanity, and many lose their mind."

The Russian ambassador to the U.S., Anatoly Antonov, denounced Graham's remarks as "unacceptable" and "outrageous", saying the degree of "Russophobia and hatred in the U.S. towards Russia was off the charts." Page 5

Korea Republic to host Iran at Seoul World Cup Stadium

TEHRAN – Korea Republic national football team will host Iran in Seoul in the 2022 FIFA World Cup qualifier.

The match is scheduled for Mar. 24 at the Seoul World Cup Stadium.

Iran lead Group A with 22 points, two points ahead of the Korean team.

Dragan Skocic's men have already booked their place in the 2022 FIFA World Cup as the first Asian team. Iran and Korea Republic shared the spoils in a 1-1 draw in October in Tehran's Azadi Stadium.

Iran will participate in the FIFA World Cup for the sixth time.

The Persians booked their place in the 1978 FIFA World Cup for the first time.

Iran waited 20 years to make it happen once again when they advanced to the 1998 FIFA World Cup in France.

Iran also competed in 2006, 2014 and 2018 FIFA World Cups.



Iran seeks 'nonpolitical collaboration' from IAEA

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TEHRAN — The head of Iran's nuclear energy organization has called for "nonpolitical collaboration" from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Mohammad Eslami, the president of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI),

made the remarks during a joint news conference with the UN body's director general Rafael Grossi, who visited Tehran for the third time under the new Iranian administration.

Grossi stated that he had been in regular contact with the Iranian nuclear chief, but

that the two sides "did have a lot of critical concerns" that had not been handled for a long time and that they had now "agreed to try a practical, pragmatic approach" to settle them. Page 2

STAY UPDATED #ViennaTalks

Iran ready to build dams, power plants for Armenia

TEHRAN –Iran has expressed readiness for conducting various infrastructure projects including dams, roads, and power plants in Armenia, the portal of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) reported.

The announcement was made during a meeting between Iranian Industry, Mining,

and Trade Minister Reza Fatemi-Amin and TPO Head Alireza Peyman-Pak with Armenian Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure Gnel Sanosyan.

In this meeting, while expressing the capabilities of Iranian companies in the field of technical and engineering services, Pey-

man-Pak expressed the readiness of Iranian companies for providing power plant services as well as the supply of fuel including gasoline and diesel to Armenia.

As reported, during the meetings the two sides also discussed cooperation in other areas including transportation, mining, and transit. Page 4

Dust storm from Iraq, Syria and Jordan hits western Iran

TEHRAN – A dense mass of sand and dust storms entered western Ilam province from the deserts of Iraq, Syria, and Jordan on Friday morning.

The concentration of fine dust was recorded as 50 times above the standard range in some cities of the province.

Due to the intensity of PM concentration, the schools in all educational levels in the southern cities of the province were held online on Saturday, IRIB reported.

Also, the activities of the offices in these areas started with a 2-hour delay. The concentration of dust canceled flights of Ilam Airport.

Ali Mohammad Tahmasebi, head of the national working group for SDSs mitigation, said that internal dust sources estimated at 34.6 million hectares, generate an average amount of 4.22 million tons of dust per year, of which 122.7 kilograms is raised per hectare annually. Page 7



IRGC unveils underground drone base

TEHRAN — Two missile and drone bases of the IRGC Air Force have been unveiled at the presence of Major General Hossein Salami, commander-in-chief of the IRGC.

Media outlets reported on Saturday that these tunnel bases, built in the heart of the high mountains, house ground-to-ground missile systems with advanced equipment, as well as offensive drones penetrating the enemy's radar and defense networks. Page 2

Iran has 2,000 elements registered as intangible cultural heritage: minister

TEHRAN – Some 2,000 elements have been registered on Iran's national list of intangible cultural heritage, tourism minister Ezzatollah Zarghami said on Friday.

"So far, about two thousand intangible cultural elements have been registered in the country."

"Intangible cultural heritage such as cul-

ture, religion, and rituals are of very high importance as they shape the identity of any nation," Zarghami said.

Moreover, 17 Iranian elements have been registered in the UNESCO's list of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Among Iran's entries to the prestigious list are Radif of Iranian music; traditional

skills of carpet weaving in Kashan; Music of the Bakhshis of Khorasan; Naqqali, Iranian dramatic story-telling; traditional skills of building and sailing Iranian Lenj boats in the Persian Gulf; and traditional skills of crafting and playing Dotar.

Furthermore, the ancient country seeks to register five intangible elements on Page 6

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Interview



There is greater risk of nuclear war now than any time since the Cuban Missile Crisis: historian

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN – A professor of history and director of the Nuclear Studies Institute at American University warns that the globe is at risk of nuclear war.

"The world is in a very precarious situation at the moment and there is a greater risk of nuclear war now than any time since the Cuban Missile Crisis almost sixty years ago," Peter Kuznick tells the Tehran Times.

"Putin is in control of the largest and most modern nuclear arsenal in the world. He controls approximately 6,000 nuclear weapons—enough to end life on this planet several times over."

Vladimir Putin declared on February 27 that he was putting his nuclear forces into "special combat readiness" – a heightened alert status reminiscent of some of the most dangerous moments of the Cold War.

"We don't know if he is simply copying Richard Nixon's madman thesis or he has actually gone mad. But no one wants to test him to find out," Kuznick notes.

Following is the text of the interview:

Given the ongoing escalation between Russia and NATO over Ukraine, how can we read nuclear deterrence theory?

The world is in a very precarious situation at the moment and there is a greater risk of nuclear war now than at any time since the Cuban Missile Crisis almost sixty years ago. Putin is in control of the largest and most modern nuclear arsenal in the world. He controls approximately 6,000 nuclear weapons—enough to end life on this planet several times over. Page 5

Magnificent Persian songs echo in Zagreb concert hall during Iran-Croatia diplomatic gala

TEHRAN – The grandeur of Persian songs echoed at Zagreb's Vatroslav Lisinski Concert Hall on Friday evening as the Zagreb Philharmonic Orchestra performed the Iranian symphonic poem "Zarathustra Spitama".

Iranian maestro Ali (Alexander) Rahbari, the composer of the symphonic poem, conducted the orchestra during the concert, which was organized to celebrate 30 years of diplomatic relations between Iran and Croatia, the Embassy of Iran in Zagreb announced on Saturday.

During the entirely Persian concert, Iranian vocalist Reza Fekri sang a tenor solo accompanied by the Ivan Filipovic Chamber Choir. Page 8

EU's Borrell: Agreement on Iran nuclear deal may be found this weekend

TEHRAN – An agreement may be reached this weekend in indirect talks between Iran and the United States on reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, the European Union's foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said on Friday.

"I hope that during this weekend we can deliver," he told reporters in Brussels, Reuters reported.

The remarks by Borrell came one day before Rafael Grossi, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, visited Tehran for talks with Iranian nuclear chief Mohammad Eslami and Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian.

Amir Abdollahian and Borrell held phone talks on Friday. During the conversation, Borrell said that the demands Iran had at the Vienna talks have been mostly incorporated in the deal being hammered out.

"We believe that Iran's demands have been mostly met in the future agreement," Borrell said.

Borrell added that he, as the coordinator of the talks between Iran and the P4+1 group, would like to declare that the negotiations are

making progress and headed for a final deal.

Amir Abdollahian also thanked the high coordinator of the EU in the Vienna talks and said Iran is ready for a good and immediate deal.

Amir Abdollahian however noted that the rush by the Western side will not cause Iran to cross its red lines, according to the Iranian foreign ministry.

The Iranian foreign minister also welcomed a finalization of the agreement as soon as possible. He added that the prerequisite for the presence of foreign ministers in Vienna and the announcement of a final deal is contingent upon respecting the red lines of Iran, including effective economic guarantees.

Amir Abdollahian noted that top Iranian negotiator Ali Bagheri Kani and his team will remain in Vienna for active consultations with all delegations and that the Iranian negotiating team will seriously continue efforts to reach a final and good agreement.

The top Iranian diplomat also said he is ready to fly to Vienna once the Western parties accept the remaining red lines declared by the Islamic Republic.

Iran says Vienna talks will continue until a good deal is reached

TEHRAN– In a Twitter message, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh stressed that early positive news will not substitute a good deal in the current Vienna talks aimed at removal of illegal sanctions.

"Vienna Talks still continue. Premature good news does not substitute good agreement," Khatibzadeh tweeted on Thursday.

"Nobody can say the deal is done, until all the outstanding remaining issues are resolved. Extra efforts needed. Everybody is now focused on the final critical steps," he added.

The Iranian diplomat also emphasized that everyone's attention is now focused on the final important phases in the Vienna talks.

On Wednesday, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian stated that the Islamic Republic is making serious and active steps to nullify U.S. sanctions, in addition to diplomatic efforts in Vienna to eliminate them.

"The issue of neutralization and removal of sanctions is actively pursued and efforts are made to see the effect of government actions, initiatives and follow-ups in people's lives," Amir Abdollahian said on Wednesday, addressing a meeting with Iranian media directors at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs compound.

He also delivered a report on the current developments in the ongoing talks in Vienna.

In response to the developments in Ukraine, Amir Abdollahian clarified on Iran's perspective on the issue, as well as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' measures and follow-ups involving Iranian nationals in the Eastern European country.

The media directors, for their part, expressed their perspectives and ideas on foreign policy, and the foreign minister responded to questions throughout the meeting.

On Thursday afternoon, Iran's top negotiator Ali Bagheri Kani conferred with the European Union's deputy foreign policy chief Enrique Mora in the Austrian capital as part of the eighth round of negotiations on the removal of anti-Tehran sanctions by reviving the 2015 Iran deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

The major contentious points discussed at the bilateral meeting were allegedly the extent of sanctions and the lifting of all bans placed on Iran as part of Washington's so-called maximum pressure campaign against Iran. Among the other topics covered were the guarantees sought by the Islamic Republic in order to verify the lifting of sanctions, as well as lingering safeguards concerns between Iran and the

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

In a tweet after the end of his talks with Iran's negotiator, Mora said, "We are at the final stages of the Vienna Talks on JCPOA."

Iran's top negotiator also met separately on Thursday with the Russian delegation in Vienna, which is led by Mikhail Ulyanov, the country's ambassador to international organizations in the Austrian capital. The two parties addressed the latest advances in the talks at the bilateral meeting.

Following the meeting, Ulyanov took to his Twitter account describing the past 11 months of JCPOA-related negotiations as a "long and grueling marathon," and saying that the talks were "almost over."

"Yesterday marked 11 months since the Vienna Talks started. A long and grueling marathon. Now it is almost over," Ulyanov wrote.

On Wednesday, Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Ali Shamkhani stated that, in addition to attempts to lift the unlawful sanctions through the Vienna negotiations, Tehran has concentrated on rendering the embargoes ineffective.

Shamkhani made the statements while speaking to a special meeting of MPs about the latest developments in the talks between Tehran and the other parties to the 2015 nuclear accord.

During the meeting, Shamkhani emphasized the need to settle the remaining unresolved concerns, on which no consensus has been achieved thus far.

"The bitter experience of the U.S.'s non-commitment and the European inaction has made it inevitable to meet the requirements for the conclusion of a credible, balanced and lasting agreement," he added.

"In addition to efforts toward sanctions removal, the country's major strategy is to focus on creating mechanisms in order to render the sanctions tool ineffective. Fortunately, very good measures have been taken in this regard," Shamkhani said.

The United States unilaterally withdrew from the historic nuclear agreement in May 2018 and reinstated the sanctions that had been removed as part of the agreement. Washington's European allies in the pact have been strictly toeing the sanctions line by ceasing trade with Iran.

Last April, Iran and the remaining JCPOA parties (Britain, France, Germany, Russia, and China) began talks in Vienna on the assumption that the U.S., under the Joe Biden administration, is prepared to abolish the so-called maximum pressure strategy.

Tehran has stated that it will not settle for anything less than the removal of all U.S. sanctions in a verifiable way. It also wants assurances that Washington would not withdraw from the deal again.

From page 1 ► This is the first time that the IRGC Air Force has unveiled an underground unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) base.

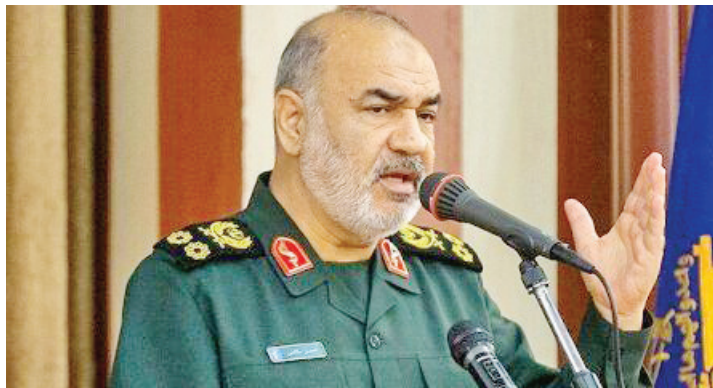
The presence of UAVs with a range of 2,000 km, launch platforms for two-pilot missiles, multi-aircraft launch platforms for the accuracy and quality of the combination of these systems, which was recently demonstrated in the Great Prophet 17 exercise, shows the amazing effectiveness of these bases in defense areas and protecting the security of Iran against any threat.

At the unveiling ceremony, General Salami praised efforts by the IRGC Air Force to advance the defense strategy of Iran.

"We were once empty-handed and fought, but today we have the same faith, we have the same Leader and commander, we have the same nation and ideals, but by the grace of God, our hands are full," he noted.

General Salami described the manifestation of real power in missiles, UAVs, defense, airplanes and floats, saying the root of this power and its nature and creation is in the beliefs, convictions and hearts and minds of human beings.

Emphasizing that Iran's power lies in its determination, will and faith rather than weapons, Salami said, "Nevertheless, thank God, we have enough effective weapons with indigenous knowledge."



IRGC unveils underground drone base

IRGC Air Force commander: We can fly 60 UAVs at once

General Amir Ali Hajizadeh, Commander of the IRGC Air Force, said at the unveiling ceremony that the armed forces must be powerful.

"We followed this principle as a command in the IRGC Air Force, and with the round-the-clock efforts of the staff and the effective support of the officials, we were able to make this move," he noted.

Hajizadeh added that Iran can fly 60 UAVs at this new base at the moment.

"Because the range of these drones is high, we have no

goal limits and we can hit any hostile target," Hajizadeh reiterated.

The IRGC official added that Iran's missile fire and simultaneous firing power have increased more than 6 to 7 times, and the preparation time and the preparation distance for firing have been greatly reduced.

Describing the enemy's discussions about the IRGC's drone power as a sign of the increasing power of Iran in different fields, Hajizadeh said the enemy was talking about Iran's nuclear technology as it is now talking about its missile

power.

Defense ministry unveils 10 new products

With the presence of Defense Minister Mohammad Reza Ashtiani 7 products in the field of ground combat, 2 in air combat and 1 in naval warfare were unveiled at the Defense Industries Organization.

Speaking after the unveiling ceremony, Ashtiani thanked the defense industry experts for their hard work.

The brigadier general said, "The goals, policies and strategies set in the field of weapons and the acquisition of advanced military technologies have been well and systematically formulated in the defense ministry and have been achieved by the Defense Industries Organization."

The defense minister stressed the need to revamp and increase accuracy in the products of the Defense Industries Organization as a basic strategy.

With the help of God and efforts of experts at the ministry, the organization's products which include missiles, bombs and other military equipment, have the necessary operational capabilities and efficiency, and this plays an important role in increasing the military strength and defense capability of the Islamic Republic to carry out missions "optimally and effectively," the defense chief explained.

Iran seeks 'nonpolitical collaboration' from IAEA

From page 1 ► The visit coincides with the conclusion of discussions in Vienna between Iran and the P4+1 group of countries aimed at resurrecting the 2015 accord, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Grossi stated that the Vienna discussions and Iran-IAEA collaboration are intertwined, and that if Iran and the IAEA do not reach an agreement on safeguards problems, reaching an agreement in the Austrian capital will be difficult.

Eslami stated that he discussed with Grossi the outstanding issues raised by the IAEA chief in his earlier visits to Iran and those of Iranian officials to Vienna, and that they "reached a conclusion".

"It was resolved that the requisite documents will be exchanged between Iran and the IAEA" before the end of the Iranian month of Khordad, which falls on June 21, he added.

The remaining difficulties, according to Eslami, should be settled normally, and he

hopes that "the new relationship and road we are constructing" with the agency would lead to Iran's progress.

"We hope that the collaboration process will be nonpolitical, and that the Iranian people will see the benefits in their daily life," he said.

"Political influence and lobbying should have no bearing on IAEA decisions."

"Unfortunately, some members do not respect confidentiality, which is terrible," Grossi says.

Eslami added, "Iran and the IAEA should handle their concerns in a thoroughly professional manner and within the boundaries of their knowledge."

"Any political activity is out of question."

The nuclear deal talks in Vienna began in April after the administration of Joe Biden which was abandoned by his predecessor Donald Trump under his "maximum pressure" policy against Iran.

Tehran has stated that it will not accept anything less than a complete removal of all U.S. sanctions in a verifiable manner. It also

wants assurances that Washington will not withdraw from the pact again.

Grossi stated that he was committed to improving the IAEA's collaboration with Iran and assisting the Iranian people in their journey to prosperity.

"It is critical to reach a shared understanding in order to cooperate. Nuclear energy is critical for the growth of countries such as Iran."

However, he had a hands-off approach to the issue of the IAEA's records or reports leaked to news agencies and certain governments.

"This is a question I've asked myself numerous times. Unfortunately, some members do not respect this confidentiality, which is terrible," he stated.

"There has been a lot of discussion within the agency about setting guidelines, but when someone wants to reveal material, it can't be stopped," he continued.

Prior to his journey to Tehran, the IAEA director stated that his visit comes at "a critical time, but a positive outcome for all is possible."

Later, the IAEA chief met with Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian.

Amir Abdollahian corresponds to Azeri, Turkmen and Pakistani counterparts

TEHRAN — Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian corresponded to some of his counterparts on Saturday on the occasions the Islamic Republic established diplomatic ties with these countries.

In a message to Azerbaijan's Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov, Amir Abdollahian sincerely congratulated him and the people of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The foreign minister's message reads, "Friendly and brotherly relations with

neighboring countries, especially Muslim countries, have a special place in the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. In this context, the Republic of Azerbaijan due to historical, cultural and religious ties, enjoys a privileged position, and on this basis, Iran has always supported the territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan."

Amir Abdollahian responds to Turkmen counterpart

In response to a message from Turkmen Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Rasit Meredov on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of relations between the two countries, Amir Abdollahian said,

"Iran-Turkmenistan's relations are based on the principles of good neighborliness, and the trend of relations between the two countries over the past three decades, based on deep historical, cultural, religious and ethnic ties, has been developing in a positive direction."

He added that he is confident that in the new Iranian government, all his efforts and the diplomatic staff of Iran will be used to strengthen Tehran's relations with the "friendly and brotherly country of Turkmenistan."

FM sends message to Pakistani counterpart

Amir Abdollahian also sent

Iranian national in Ukraine dies: embassy

TEHRAN — Following the news of the death of an Iranian citizen in Ukraine, the Iranian embassy in Kyiv confirmed the report after serious investigations.

After contacting the Ukrainian police, the embassy expressed regret over the death of the citizen, named Mohammad Mohsen Shoushtarian.

Shoushtarian, 51, was leaving Kharkiv along with another Iranian and Ukrainian national, when he suffered a



heart failure near the Russian town of Novaya Vadaloga and died despite medical assistance.

"The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, while expressing its sincere condolences and sympathy with the family and relatives of the deceased, is trying to gain additional information regarding the causes of the accident and the condition of the body of the deceased," the statement issued by the embassy read.

Ukraine war reveals the ugly face of racism in Europe

TEHRAN – The war in Ukraine has sparked public backlash in other parts of the world against what activists and observers call the resurgence of “racism” in Europe.

There have long been heated debates about such sensitive issues as eurocentrism and racism. The war in Ukraine just rekindled these old debates after many Western reporters and journalists used words and descriptions in their coverage of the crisis in Ukraine which were widely seen as pejorative and insulting to non-Western people, particularly those living in the West Asia region and Africa who have long suffered from ill-treatment in the West.

The debate started when CBS News senior foreign correspondent Charlie D'Agata drew a comparison between the people of Ukraine and Iraq, saying that the Ukrainian people are relatively civilized and European.

After describing the agonies of war in Ukraine, D'Agata said the country “isn't a place, with all due respect, like Iraq or Afghanistan, that has seen conflict raging for decades. This is a relatively civilized, relatively European – I have to choose those words carefully, too – city, one where you wouldn't expect that, or hope that it's going to happen.”

The remarks drew widespread reactions from people in West Asia and Africa. And the video of D'Agata went viral on social media platforms. It was viewed more than seven million times on Twitter.

Coupled with a warmer European welcome for Ukrainian refugees, D'Agata's remarks aroused questions in the East over



whether Ukrainian refugees deserve more sympathy for being “relatively civilized and European.”

“If this is D'Agata choosing his words carefully, I shudder to think about his impromptu utterances. After all, by describing Ukraine as ‘civilized,’ isn't he really telling us that Ukrainians, unlike Afghans and Iraqis, are more deserving of our sympathy than Iraqis or Afghans?” wondered Moustafa Bayoumi, an American writer of Egyptian descent, in an opinion piece for The Guardian.

D'Agata's views of Ukraine were just one example of how Western reporters differentiate between refugees. Some European officials who often do not utter such controversial comments on refugees have shown in action how much they discriminate against refugees. Hungary's

Prime Minister Viktor Orbán is a case in point. Just a few months ago, the prime minister was toughening restrictive measures against refugees coming mainly from West Asia.

But he is now offering a “friendly place” to Ukrainian refugees.

Polish Interior Minister Mariusz Kaminski also was keen to welcome refugees from Ukraine. “We will do everything to provide safe shelter in Poland for everyone who needs it,” he said.

“The open-arm welcome for those fleeing Ukraine stands in sharp contrast to the treatment of previous waves of refugees from places like Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan. Just two months earlier, Orbán said Hungary was keeping its restrictive immigration policies: ‘[W]e aren't going to let anyone in,’” wrote MPR

reporter Laurel Wamsley.

She said “race no doubt plays a role in attitudes” toward the Ukrainian refugees.

Ever since a large number of Ukrainians started fleeing Ukraine, there have been reports of discrimination against African refugees in Poland and Ukraine.

An international coalition of activists and human rights attorneys on Wednesday announced they filed an appeal to the United Nations on behalf of African refugees facing racial discrimination in Ukraine and Poland, CNN reported. The filing follows numerous reports from Black refugees who said they faced segregation, racism and abuse as they tried to flee for safety from war-torn Ukraine to Poland.

According to CNN, coalition members said during a news conference Wednesday they have also heard reports of segregated lines for white and Black people at the Polish border and Black mothers and children have been thrown off trains. Videos shared on social media have shown groups of Black people stranded at the border not being allowed in and various threats against Black people who attempt to cross.

IRAN IN FOCUS

MARCH 6, 2022

Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

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SPORTS

S. Korea ambassador to Tehran Kang-hyeon handed Iran's jersey

TEHRAN – Director of Iran national football team, Hamid Estili, met with South Korea ambassador to Tehran Yun Kang-hyeon on Friday.

The visit took place in Embassy of South Korea in Tehran. Yun Kang-hyeon was handed an Iran national football team jersey.

Team Melli was scheduled to face South Korea on March 24 at the Seoul World Cup Stadium in Seoul.

Dragan Skocic's team leads Group A of the 2022 FIFA World Cup qualification with 22 points, two points ahead of South Korea.

Saber Kazemi reaches agreement with Al-Arabi of Qatar

TEHRAN – Iran international opposite spiker Saber Kazemi has reportedly joined Qatari volleyball club Al-Arabi.



Kazemi, 24, has penned a one-month deal with Al-Arabi. He has most recently played for Shahrdari Urmia.

Kazemi will join Al-Arabi for the Emir of Qatar Cup competition, where the team will compete Al-Rayyan to win the title.

Iran to host AVC Beach Tour Master for Men

TEHRAN – Iran has been chosen to host the 2022 AVC Beach Tour Master for Men.

The updated 2022 AVC Beach Volleyball Competition Calendar has recently been circulated to all AVC affiliated National Federations.

According to the update, the 2022 AVC Beach Tour Master for Men will be hosted by Iran between October and November, with the competition dates yet to be confirmed.

Dragan Skocic to enter Tehran on Sunday

TEHRAN – Iran national football team head coach Dragan Skocic will travel to Tehran on Sunday.

The Croat will start his work for the match against South Korea and Lebanon in the 2022 World Cup qualification.

Team Melli will face South Korea on March 24 at the Seoul World Cup Stadium in Seoul and will host Lebanon five days later in Tehran.

Iran has already qualified for the 2022 World Cup under leadership of Skocic.

Two swimmers to represent Iran at World Series Italia Para Swimming

TEHRAN – Iran will send two swimmers to the World Series Italia Para Swimming 2022.

The competition will be held in Lignano Sabbiadoro, Italy from March 11 to 13.

Shahin Izadyar and Sina Zeighami will represent Iran in the championship.

The competition serves as qualification for the 2022 Asian Para Games in Hangzhou, China.

The event will bring 40 teams and 150 athletes together at the Bella Italia Village Pool in Lignano Sabbiadoro.

and defend its citizens, interests and installations against any terrorist or disruptive acts.”

Iran also asked the president of the UN Security Council to circulate the letter as a document of the Security Council.

Neighbors are priority for Iran: president

TEHRAN – On Friday, President Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi stressed that dealing with all countries of the world is on the agenda of his government, and that neighboring countries take priority in developing the country's foreign diplomacy.

in a press statement at the end of his visit to Golestan province, northeastern Iran, Raisi said a balanced view prevails in Iranian foreign policy, and attention to the East or West is not on the agenda.

He pointed out that some former officials put their hopes on the West, which resulted in the suspension of the country's activities, but despite Iran's current negotiations with the Westerners and its efforts to lift sanctions, Tehran relies on its zealous youth to preserve national independence and power.

Raisi stated that some of his government's actions in expanding neighborly relations or strengthening ties with the regional countries are interpreted as “look to the East,” adding, “Our message is that there should be a balance in foreign relations. In the past, the view of the West in the field of foreign policy was heavy and all the government had hoped was in the hands of the West.”

“The country cannot be limited to relations with certain countries,” he said, adding, “The country must move forward. For example, in the core negotiations, our hope is first in God and then in the Iranian people. We do not hope for a miracle in Vienna. We seek to lift sanctions, but more importantly, we seek to neutralize sanctions.”

The president also said his government plans to use the capacity of the North-South corridor to economically

develop the eastern part of the Caspian Sea. Pointing to the status of this region in expanding neighborly relations, he said, “The government has put interaction with all countries around the world, especially neighboring countries, on the agenda.”

Ayatollah Raisi added, “Today, relations with neighbors are not commensurate with the existing capacities, and our economic and trade interactions with neighboring countries can be at a much higher level. During my travels to neighboring countries during the period since the beginning of the government, it became increasingly clear to me that the capacities of the country's neighborhood relations have not been realized as they should be put in practice.”

The president said, “During our visit to Turkmenistan, which happens to be a neighbor to Golestan province, we came to the conclusion through negotiations that there is a lot of potential for improving the level of relations, and one of these capacities was the gas swap agreement, which contributes to not having gas outages in the northern regions of the country.”

Ayatollah Raisi also pointed to his government's plans to solve the people's problems.

Speaking in a press conference at the end of his trip to Golestan province on Friday evening, Ayatollah Raisi said, “The proposals for resolving the problems were prepared and finalized in a meeting with the first vice-president,” according to the official website of the presidency.

Saying that Golestan province is one of the agricultural hubs of the country, the president added, “In Golestan



province, unlike most parts of the country, the population of villages has not decreased and therefore in this trip, most of the funds allocated to Golestan were allocated to agriculture to address the concerns of the people in the field of agriculture.”

Raisi also talked about the state of industry in Golestan province. “We also have industrial towns in Golestan province, but the industry in the province is not as prosperous as it should be and therefore it was decided to form a working group under the governor-general and with the presence of representatives of related agencies including the Ministry of Industry.”

Iran's security chief reminds Saudi Arabia of who is enemy of Muslims, Arabs

TEHRAN – Iran's top security official has explained the goal of Iran's negotiations with Saudi Arabia, reminding it that Israel is the biggest enemy of the Islamic and Arab worlds.

Ali Shamkhani, who is the secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, made the remarks after Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman said in a recent interview that Riyadh does not view Israel as an enemy, but a potential ally.

“Iran's active participation in bilateral

talks with Saudi Arabia -hosted by Iraq- stems from the Islamic Republic's principled strategy for [fostering] cooperation & amity with neighbors based on securing bilateral and regional interests. We should not forget that the Zionist regime is the biggest enemy of the Islamic and Arab worlds,” Shamkhani said on Twitter.

In addition to Persian, Shamkhani posted the tweet in other languages such as Arabic, Hebrew, and English.

Saudi Arabian officials have said that

acts against Iranian scientists, remarked, “You know, a lot of Iranian scientists have had a lot of accidents, he said. ‘I would expect there'll be more accidents to come.’”

Iran described the remarks as “repulsive” and “abhorrent” and said it reserves its right to defend its citizens.

“This repulsive, abhorrent and reprehensible remark, which serves as a green light to the Israeli regime to perpetrate further terrorist acts against Iranian nuclear scientists, is a clear breach of the US' international obligations, particularly those under UN resolutions that call on States to prohibit incitement to terrorist acts and refrain from providing any kind of support for terrorist activities,” the letter stated.

It further said, “Recalling the Israeli

they don't mind establishing relations with Israel if the Palestinian-Israeli conflict is settled. Recently, Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan said that Israel's integration into the region would be beneficial not only for Israel but for the region as a whole. He made the remarks in an interview with the Israeli newspaper Maariv on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference.

The Saudi foreign minister added that his country will continue the peace process with Israel if the Palestinian issue

is resolved fairly.

He noted that this situation would strengthen extremist movements in the region without resolving the deep-rooted problems of the Palestinian people and respecting their sovereignty. The Saudi foreign minister pointed out that that the priority now is to find a solution so that the Israelis and Palestinians can sit together to pursue a peace process. He also stressed that this will make things easier for all countries that do not yet have relations with Israel.



and defend its citizens, interests and installations against any terrorist or disruptive acts.”

It pointed out, “While warning against the Israeli regime's adventurism as well as its ramifications for the region's peace and security, the Islamic Republic of Iran reserves its right under international law to take all necessary measures to protect

Iran to send three athletes to Brazil Deaflympics

TEHRAN – Three athletes will represent Iran at the 24th edition of the Summer Deaflympics in Brazil.

The 10 athletes will compete together on Match 16 in Tehran's Aftab-e Enghelab Stadium for three spots.

No Iranian woman athlete will compete in the Deaflympics.

The 24th edition of the Summer Deaflympics will bring together more than 6,000 athletes from almost 100 different nations, in Caxias do Sul.

Iran beat Singapore at IIHF World Championship Division IV

TEHRAN – Iran defeated Singapore 5-2 in the 2022 IIHF World Championship Division IV on Friday.

Iran had lost to Kyrgyzstan 13-1 in its opening match on Thursday.

Iran will play Kuwait and Malaysia on Sunday and Monday, respectively.

The tournament is being played in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan from 3 to 8 March 2022. After the tournament was cancelled the last two years, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all teams stayed put in their divisions.

Hossein Vafaei into Welsh Open Snooker semis

TEHRAN – Iranian snooker player Hossein Vafaei booked his place in semi-final round of the Welsh Open.

He recovered from trailing 4-1 against Zhang Anda in the Open quarter-finals to complete a memorable 5-4 victory.

The Shoot Out winner looked down and out in the race to five frames, but reeled off breaks of 68, 58, 63 and 96 to progress to the last four and a semi-final meeting with World No. 3 Judd Trump on Saturday afternoon in Newport.

Nazemoshahria to travel to Iraq on Monday

TEHRAN – Mohammad Nazemoshahria, who has been shortlisted to take charge of Iraq national futsal team, will travel to Baghdad on Monday to finalize his deal.

He traveled to Iraq to hold a meeting with the country's sports minister last week.

Nazemoshahria was replaced by Vahid Shamsaei in Iran national futsal team in January.

Under leadership of Nazemoshahria, Iran won their first-ever medal in a Futsal World Cup. The Persians claimed a bronze medal in the FIFA Futsal World Cup Colombia 2016.

Russian, Belarusian athletes banned from Winter Paralympics

TEHRAN – Russian and Belarusian athletes have been banned from the 2022 Winter Paralympic Games in Beijing, the International Paralympic Committee said Thursday.

The about-face comes less than 24 hours after the IPC on Wednesday announced it would allow Russian and Belarusian athletes to compete when the Games open on Friday, but only as neutral athletes with colors, flags and other national symbols removed.

The IPC received immediate criticism for its initial decision. The IPC said it was evident that many athletes would refuse to compete against Russians or Belarusians, creating chaos for the Paralympics and damaging its reputation.

IPC President Andrew Parsons, in announcing the initial measures Wednesday in a Beijing news conference, sympathized openly with the Ukrainian people but said his actions were constrained by his organization's rules and the fear of legal action.

The IPC now joins sports like football, wrestling, basketball, hockey and others that have imposed blanket bans on Russians and Belarusians.

Russia was expected to have 71 athletes competing in Beijing. It was not immediately clear how many Belarusian athletes were involved. Ukraine has said it would have 20. The Winter Paralympics opened Friday and close on March 13.

Iran ready to build dams, power plants for Armenia



From page 1 ► Peyman-Pak further suggested that Iran and Armenia could also cooperate in the mining sector since Armenia has large copper and molybdenum mines and exports the minerals in the form of concentrate to other countries.

According to the official, considering high gas prices in Armenia it is not economically justifiable to melt minerals and create products with more added value, so Iranian companies that have bioleaching technology can cooperate with Armenia in this regard to jointly produce copper ingots using the mentioned technology

that does not require heat and melting.

Iranian Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Reza Fatemi-Amin traveled to Armenia on top of a delegation on March 3, seeking to strengthen the economic ties between the two countries.

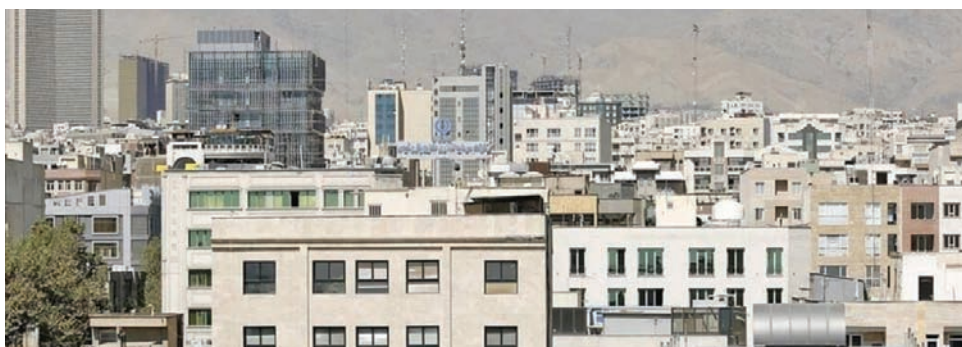
Upon arrival, Fatemi-Amin met with Armenian Economy Minister Vahan Kerobyan to discuss mutual areas for economic cooperation.

During the visit of the Iranian delegation to Armenia, several specialized meetings were also held between the businessmen of the two countries, and the representatives of the two sides' private sectors held B2B meetings to exchange ideas and learn about potential areas for mutual cooperation.

Trade relations between Iran and Armenia have dramatically expanded after Iran signed a Free Trade Agreement with the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) in October 2019.

The Republic of Armenia is a landlocked country located in northwestern Iran. The two countries share a 44-kilometer border.

Housing rental rises 48% in Tehran city in a month on year



TEHRAN- Central Bank of Iran (CBI) has announced that the rental price has increased 48.4 percent in Tehran city during the eleventh Iranian calendar month of Bahman (ended on February 19), as compared to the same month in the past year.

The CBI has also announced that the average housing price has increased 0.4 percent in the capital Tehran during the eleventh month, from its previous month, and 16.4 percent from the same month of the past year.

Housing prices in Iran have been constantly rising over the past year due to various internal and external factors.

And, for the upcoming months, a number of factors are mentioned to affect the housing

market in Iran.

One factor is the possibility of reviving a 2015 nuclear deal signed between Iran and world powers.

Some experts believe that if the mentioned deal, known as Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), is revived, housing price will experience its biggest historical drop.

As Mostafa Gholi Khosravi, the head of Iran's Property Advisers Union, has recently stated, "The housing market is waiting for the results of the [JCPOA] negotiations, and with the positive shock that the agreements bring to the market, sales will increase in the coming months."

He believes that the market will stabilize towards the buyer and the price will decrease.

Reviving idle mines adds 22,000 tons to Iran's mineral output



TEHRAN – Reviving small idle mines across Iran has added over 22,000 tons to the country's minerals production output in the first 11 months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2021-January 20, 2022), an official with the Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry announced.

According to Reza Azimi, who directs the ministry's program for reviving and developing small mines, over 453 such mines have been revived and developed in the mentioned 11 months creating job opportunities for over 3,500 people, IRNA reported.

Azimi said the most important goal of this program, which is being implemented by the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO), is to activate the country's mines, which will result in increased production and employment,

especially in deprived areas.

"Our focus is on the development and supporting of inactive and expandable mines across the country using private sector capital," the official said.

According to Azimi, the total number of revived mines has reached 852 since the launch of the program in late March 2019 until January 20, 2021.

From the beginning of this year to the end of the Iranian calendar month of Bahman (January 20), operations were conducted on 503 mines in collaboration with provincial working groups, and necessary measures were taken which include the removal of administrative barriers, providing investment, and resolving local conflicts, he said.

Back in December 2021, Azimi had mentioned concluding 37 memorandums of understanding

(MOU) for investment, and scientific-research cooperation with knowledge-based companies, as well as the introduction of 124 projects to Mining Investment Insurance Corporation for receiving facilities, and the support and coaching of knowledge-based companies and startups as other measures taken under the framework of the mentioned program.

As reported, IMIDRO is conducting the program with the aim of providing feedstock for mineral industries, increasing production and completing the mining industry's product chain, and developing and creating sustainable employment.

Following this program, so far various small-scale mines including chromite, manganese, hematite, dolomite, iron ore, copper, and construction stone mines have

been surveyed by monitoring and diagnosing the problems of the mines and providing solutions for resolving their issues.

Over the past few years with new resilient economy strategies coming into play, the mining sector has become a major point of focus for the Iranian government and various organizations and bodies active in this sector have been tasked to implement new programs for boosting this sector.

As a major state-owned holding company active in the mining sector in the country, IMIDRO has been playing a significant part in the mentioned planning.

The organization has been implementing several new programs in all the main fields of the mining industry including exploration, machinery development, extraction and also reviving the country's idle mines.

PETZONE petrochemical output seen to hit 19m tons by late Mar.

TEHRAN – Managing Director of Iran's Mahshahr Petrochemical Special Economic Zone (PETZONE) said the output of this zone is expected to reach 19 million tons by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20).

According to Omid Shahidi-Nia, so far over one billion dollars have been invested to develop the infrastructure in the mentioned zone, Shana reported.

The official noted that continuous development of the region is always considered a top priority for PETZONE, adding: "Our most important task in this region is to provide the ground for energy investment and management."

PETZONE currently accounts for 26 million tons of the country's current 90-million-ton petrochemical capacity, according to Shahidi-Nia.

He pointed to the diversity of the petrochemicals produced in the Mahshahr region and said: "Currently, several new projects worth over seven billion dollars are underway in this region, which will create more than 4,800 new jobs."

Mahshahr Petrochemical Special Economic Zone in Iran's southwestern Khuzestan



Province is one of the major petrochemical zones of the country.

Back in September 2020, Shahidi-Nia had said that 29 development projects were underway in this zone to complete the petrochemical industry's value chain and also reduce the exports of raw materials.

According to the official, four of the mentioned projects went operational in upstream and midstream sectors, while the other 25 were related to the downstream industries.

In July 2019, the former managing director of Iran's National Petrochemical Company (NPC) had unveiled a plan for the construction of a new petrochemical hub in Mahshahr Petrochemical Special Economic Zone in order

to add up to six million tons of new capacity to the zone.

Speaking in the annual general assembly of the Petrochemical Special Economic Zone at that time, Behzad Mohammadi noted that NPC was seeking two main goals in the Mahshahr zone, one of which was maintaining the current output levels and the other was the development of the zone and attracting and facilitating investment.

"In Mahshahr's grand scheme, development of downstream and midstream industries is given great importance," he said adding that the zone's development plan was going through revision and preparation.

The petrochemical industry plays a crucial role in Iran's non-oil economy, as the petrochemical export is the second-largest source of revenue for the country after crude oil. Petrochemical exports already constitute nearly 33 percent of the country's non-oil exports.

The Islamic Republic has been highly developing this sector over the recent years as the development of the giant South Pars gas field (Iran shares with Qatar in the Persian Gulf) has been supplying more feedstock to the petrochemical units.

Export from Bushehr province increases 66%

TEHRAN – The value of export from Bushehr province in the southwest of Iran rose 66 percent during the first 11 months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2021-February 19, 2022), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, a provincial official announced.

Behrouz Qarebeygi, the director-general of the province's customs administration, said that 23.309 million tons of products worth \$8.928 billion were exported from the province in the 11-month period, indicating also four percent growth in terms of weight.

Petrochemicals and gas condensate were the major exported products, while China, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Turkey, the Netherlands, Pakistan, South Africa, Brazil, and Persian Gulf littoral states were the major trade partners of the province in the said time span, the official stated.

He also announced that 460,000 tons of commodities worth \$1.257 billion were imported to the province in the first eleven months of this year, up 20 percent in terms of value and one percent in terms of

weight as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

As previously announced by the deputy head of Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), the value of Iran's non-oil trade rose 38 percent during the first 11 months of the current year.

Foroud Asgari said that Iran traded over 149.4 million tons of non-oil products worth \$90 billion with other countries in the mentioned period.

He noted that the weight of trade in the mentioned period also grew by 12 percent in comparison to the figure for the previous year's same 11 months.

The official put the 11-month non-oil exports at 112.658 million tons valued at \$43.517 billion, with a 40-percent rise in value and 10 percent growth in weight.

The Islamic Republic imported 36.777 million tons of non-oil commodities worth \$46.577 billion in the first 11 months of the present year, with a 36 percent growth in value and a 19 percent rise in weight year on year, according to the official.

IRICA has previously announced that the value of Iran's non-oil trade stood at \$73 billion in the past Iranian



calendar year.

IRICA former Head Mehdi Mir-Ashrafi had put the weight of non-oil trade at 146.4 million tons and said that the figure showed a 25-million-ton annual decline, which is the result of sanctions and coronavirus pandemic.

Iran's non-oil export was 112 million tons valued at \$34.5 billion, and that of import was 34.4 million tons worth \$38.5 billion in the past year, the official added.

Among the country's non-oil export destinations, China was the first, with importing \$8.9 billion worth of products, Iraq was the second with importing \$7.3 billion, the United Arab Emirates the third with

importing \$4.6 billion, Turkey the fourth with importing \$2.5 billion, and Afghanistan the fifth with importing \$2.2 billion, Mir-Ashrafi announced, and named gasoline, natural gas, polyethylene, propane, and pistachio as Iran's major exported products during the past year.

He further named Iran's top sources of non-oil imports in the said time, as China with exporting \$9.7 billion worth of products to the Islamic Republic, the UAE with \$9.6 billion, Turkey with \$4.3 billion, India with \$2.1 billion, and Germany with \$1.8 billion, respectively, and mentioned corn, cellphone, rice, oil meal, and oilseeds, wheat, and raw oil as the major imported items.

TEDPIX climbs 17,000 points on Saturday

TEHRAN–TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), gained 17,627 points to 1.298 million on Saturday.

As reported, over 11.6 billion securities worth 53.14 trillion rials (about \$212.5 million) were traded at the TSE.

TEDPIX lost 7,000 points (less than one percent) to 1.281 million in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday).

During the past week, the indices of Tehran Oil Refining Company, Mobarakeh Steel Company, Iran Khodro Company, Saipa Company, National Iranian Copper Company, and Bank Mellat were the most widely followed ones.

The Money and Capital Market Committee of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) hosted a meeting with Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) Head Majid Eshqi on January 30 to discuss the capital markets' current issues and challenges.

The meeting was attended by the members of the mentioned committee as well as the representatives of some of the companies active in the stock market.

Lack of sufficient training for shareholders, facilitating the entry of new companies into the stock market, offering bonds by the capital market instead of banks to provide fixed and working capital for production units, accelerating the formation of credit rating companies in the stock market, and tax exemption for undistributed dividends of companies, as well as pricing problems, were some of the most important issues pointed out by the businessmen and officials attending the mentioned meeting.

Government Economic Coordination Headquarters in its meeting in the last week of January approved five new resolutions for

supporting the country's stock market, and the directives in this regard were sent to relative ministries, First Vice President Mohammad Mokhber announced at the time.

The mentioned resolutions include the reduction of petrochemical feed prices, the reduction of interbank interest rates, the restriction of the sale of securities, preventing the increase of government mining salaries, and the increase of the exchange rate of banks.

According to Mokhber, the decisions made in the meeting of the Government Economic Coordination Headquarters have been communicated with Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Ehsan Khandouzi, Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade Reza Fatemi-Amin, Oil Minister Javad Oji, Head of Planning and Budget Organization (PMO) Masoud Mir-Kazemi, and Governor of Central Bank of Iran (CBI) Ali Saleh-Abadi.

Speaking about the positive impacts of the mentioned decisions on the capital market, Finance Minister Ehsan Khandouzi said that the mentioned resolutions carry the message of government's serious support for industries and indicate stable economic activity, predictability of variables, and ultimately a positive outlook for the economy in the coming months.

Earlier on January 25, President Raisi had called on all related authorities to take the necessary measures for resolving the stock market problems.

Following the president's remarks, his cabinet held a meeting with the presence of the PBO head, the first vice president, the vice president for economic affairs, and the head of the country's Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) to discuss ways for resolving the mentioned issues and to support the market.

There is greater risk of nuclear war now than any time since the Cuban Missile Crisis: historian

‘The sane response is to eliminate ALL nuclear weapons’

From page 1 ▶ He has been brandishing nuclear threats since the invasion began. Even before the invasion, he staged a demonstration of Russian nuclear missiles in Belarus. He has now put his nuclear forces on high alert. We don't know if he is simply copying Richard Nixon's madman thesis or he has actually gone mad. But no one wants to test him to find out. So Biden has been acted responsibly to avert a direct military confrontation between the U.S. and Russia. He has repeated over and over again that no U.S. troops will be sent to fight in Ukraine. He has made clear that the U.S. will impose sanctions on Russia and send weapons and supplies to the Ukrainians, but he seeks no military confrontations. He even canceled the upcoming planned missile test so as not to raise tensions. The thing about nuclear deterrence is that it works well until the one time it doesn't work and then there will be no one left to tell the warmongers they were wrong. Averting nuclear war must be the highest priority. Ending the current war comes in a close second.

What does history, especially the history of Cold War, say about such escalations? Eventually, would we see a diplomatic solution or what? For example, what can we learn from the Cuban missile crisis?

In some ways, the Cuban Missile Crisis is as different from today's crisis as it is similar. In 1962, the U.S. had between a 10:1 and a 20:1 superiority in the number of nuclear bombs, bombers, and ICBMs that it possessed. Given the enormous disparity in strength, Khrushchev was forced to back down, but he did so on the best possible terms he could secure. This time Russia has all the military advantages in Ukraine and many former Soviet states. After the 1962 crisis, Russia resolved not to again be forced to capitulate from weakness and quickly proceeded to gain nuclear parity. Russia's nuclear modernization has really been going on since the U.S. withdrew from the ABM Treaty in 2002. By 2018, Putin, in his State of the Nation address, announced that Russia now had five new nuclear weapons, all of which could circumvent U.S. missile defense. He said you didn't listen to us, "listen to us now!" But the West was deaf. In 1962, Kennedy and Khrushchev both did everything they could to avoid nuclear war. They both hated the thought. Khrushchev said that in 1953 when he was first briefed on nuclear weapons, he couldn't sleep for days. After the 1962 crisis ended, he told journalist Norman Cousins, "Peace is the most important goal in the world. If we don't have peace and the nuclear bombs start to fall, what difference will it make



whether we are Communists or Catholics or capitalists or Chinese or Russians or Americans? Who could tell us apart? Who will be left to tell us apart?" But Kennedy and Khrushchev both understood that they had lost control over the situation and it was moving inexorably to war despite their efforts. They realized that in such crises, it is almost impossible to maintain control. We would later learn that a Russian submarine commander had given orders to fire his nuclear torpedo and

that if another commander named Vasili Arkhipov had not talked him down, perhaps none of us would be alive today. The crisis

ended not with public diplomacy but with a backroom secret last-minute deal between Robert Kennedy and Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin that was not made public for years. This is the kind of diplomacy that was missing in the run-up to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. But Khrushchev, whose reckless and shortsighted behavior had precipitated the crisis, deserves much of the credit for ending it short of a disaster. After it was resolved, he wrote a remarkable letter to President Kennedy, who had often been the only one in the room on the U.S. side who opposed the invasion of Cuba, saying, "Evil has brought some good. The good is that now people have felt more tangibly the breathing of the burning flames of thermonuclear war and have a more clear realization of the threat looming over them if the arms race is not stopped." In light of this, he made a series of bold proposals for eliminating "everything in our relations capable of generating a new crisis," including "disbanding all military blocs." Over the next year, Kennedy and Khrushchev took major steps to ease tensions and create a more peaceful world despite their differences. But those hopes were dashed when Kennedy was assassinated in 1963 and Khrushchev was ousted by Kremlin hardliners the following year. Where are the leaders today who can look beyond narrow nationalism and speak for the peaceful interests of all humanity? Where are the leaders who can understand

how the world looks through the eyes of their adversaries?

How do you see the spread of nuclear power in the world? While Israel possesses nuclear arms, there is a media hype over peaceful nuclear programs.

Nuclear apartheid is certainly not a fair policy, but nuclear anarchy would be even worse. The more nations that have nuclear weapons, the more likely they will be used. Iran's leaders have repudiated the development of nuclear weapons. That is very wise. I think the leaders of all nine nuclear powers should do the same and eliminate their nuclear arsenals. The world agrees as indicated by the adoption of the UN Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. But, unfortunately, the world is going in the other direction. All nine nuclear powers are spending billions or trillions of dollars to modernize their arsenals, making them more efficient and more lethal. This is insane. Years ago, IAEA head El-Baradei warned that at least 40 countries have the technological

capability of developing nuclear weapons. Iran is high on that list. Gorbachev and Reagan came very close to eliminating nuclear weapons in 1996. That's what is needed now. Desperately. If this current crisis has taught us anything, it is that no flawed human being should have the power to kill millions of people by ordering the use of nuclear weapons and that neither Biden nor Putin should have veto power over the future existence of life on this planet as they both now do. But, to make matters worse, Britain is expanding its nuclear arsenal by 40 percent. China is also expanding its arsenal. This must be halted.

Do you think nuclear power can bring immunity to a political system? The USSR collapsed despite its huge nuclear arsenal. What can America learn from that?

Trusting in nuclear power is a fool's errand. The use of nuclear weapons is, in reality, committing

suicide. One might argue that having nuclear weapons saves a country from being invaded. North Korea issued a statement in 2003 that Saddam Hussein's big mistake was not having nuclear weapons. If Iraq had nuclear weapons, the U.S. would not have invaded. Similarly, if the U.S. knew that Cuba had nuclear weapons on missiles and battlefield nuclear weapons in place in 1962, the U.S. would not have invaded. So in that sense, they can serve as a deterrent. But that is no excuse for allowing nuclear weapons to proliferate. The sane response is to eliminate ALL nuclear weapons.

Does America have moral eligibility to determine nuclear policy for other countries, given its record in the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki?

I've written a lot about Hiroshima and Nagasaki and visited those cities (usually with students) some thirty times. The atomic bombing of Japan was militarily unjustifiable and morally reprehensible. Eight of America's nine five-star officers in 1945 are on record as saying the bombs were either unnecessary or reprehensible or both. The atomic bombings were a blight on America's moral reputation and historical legacy that can never be erased. But when the U.S. sincerely tries to stop the spread of nuclear weapons, it is on the right side of history. However, it is on the wrong side by not following through on its commitment under the NPT to eliminate its nuclear weapons. It has been on the wrong side in trying to sabotage the passage of the UN Nuclear Ban Treaty.

It has been on the wrong side in turning a blind eye as certain allies have built a nuclear weapon. It has been on the wrong side in repeatedly threatening other countries with nuclear annihilation if they didn't accede to America's demands. As we've seen again this past week, we live

in a world not of peace and justice but a world in which might make right. That is our challenge. We must make a new world committed to living and not dying. When I look at all the money that is wasted on weapons procurement, I'm appalled. The only ones who benefit from war are the weapons manufacturers, most properly labeled the "merchants of death." Some of their business cronies also profit. They all need to be stopped. The profit needs to be eliminated from war. A different kind of world with different priorities is possible. We must seize that opportunity—now more than ever.

Outcry after U.S. senator calls for Putin's assassination

From page 1 ▶ In a statement posted on the embassy's social media platforms, Antonov said "It is impossible to believe that a senator of a country that promotes its moral values as a 'guiding star' for all mankind could afford to call for terrorism as a way to achieve Washington's goals in the international arena."

Washington's assassination of anti-imperialist figures and independent leaders hasn't been off America's foreign policy agenda.

In the 1960s, the U.S. government put together several attempts and plans to assassinate Cuban leader Fidel Castro using various methods such as exploding cigars, murderous mobsters, an exploding seashell, and the infamous poison pen.

Also in the 1960s many political figures inside the U.S. itself were assassinated, including one of history's most iconic black civil rights leaders Dr. Martin Luther King as well as another very iconic black civil rights leader Malcom X.

After the murder of former U.S. President John F. Kennedy which shocked America, successive President's claimed enough was enough and signed executive orders prohibiting the "use of assassinations as a tactic of American operatives."

Unfortunately, American executive orders are not worth the paper they are written on.

There are also terrorist leaders who worked hand in hand with Washington and were later assassinated by U.S. Special Forces instead of being captured and put on trial. Critics argue taking these individuals for instance, Osama Bin Laden, to an independent International tribunal would have exposed the level of coordination with leaders of the now many terror groups.

Over the years, Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, another sovereign head of state survived multiple American-backed attempts on his life.

As lately as January 2020, the U.S. carried out the assassination of Iran's top military commander General Qassem Soleimani and the highest-ranking military commander in Iraq Abu Mehdi al-Muhandis with drone strikes in the vicinity of Baghdad International Airport under the direct order of former President Donald Trump.

The United Nations declared the U.S. drone strikes against the late Iranian anti-terror war hero as "unlawful" and an "arbitrary killing" that violated the UN charter.

Again, that hasn't stopped American senators such as Lindsey Graham from adding fuel to the fire in Ukraine by openly calling for the killing of President Putin.

Some congress members have hit back at the Republican Senator which critics say is aimed at distancing America from any involvement in the Ukraine conflict, which the U.S. and it's NATO partners sparked in the first place.

Representative Ilhan Omar wrote, "I really wish our members of Congress would cool it and regulate their remarks."

Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene said, "this is irresponsible, dangerous & unhinged."

Representative Matt Gaetz wrote, "When has Sen. Graham encouraging regime change ever ended badly?"

Even Texas Senator Ted Cruz noted, "this is an exceptionally bad idea, use massive economic sanctions; BOYCOTT Russian oil & gas, and provide military aid so the Ukrainians can defend themselves."

The problem with Cruz's thought process is that Ukraine has lashed out at the U.S.-led NATO alliance



for abandoning Kyiv.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has chastised the bloc for its refusal to establish a no-fly zone over the country amid the ongoing Russian offensive that hit Ukraine last week.

Zelensky, in a videotaped address, told America and it's NATO allies that "people will die because of you" in the country.

He said "NATO knowingly approved the decision not to close the skies over Ukraine. We believe that the NATO countries themselves have created a narrative that the alleged closing of the sky over Ukraine will provoke direct Russian aggression against NATO".

He also slammed the lack of aid from the alliance, saying that it has only managed to authorize a small fuel delivery for the country. While Ukraine has been recognized as a special "partner" of the alliance, NATO has repeatedly reminded the Ukrainian President that it would not go into a war with Russia for the sake of his country.

Zelensky says "all that the [NATO] alliance could do today was to allocate some 50 tons of diesel fuel for Ukraine through its procurement system."

He also lashed out at the latest NATO meeting saying "today there was a NATO summit, a weak summit, a confused summit, a summit where it was clear that not everyone considers the battle for Europe's freedom to be the number one goal," Zelensky said

A similar statement has been made by the Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmitry Kuleba, who said the ongoing conflict has exposed NATO's "weakness."

Speaking to Ukrainian media, Kuleba said "before the war, Ukrainian people believed that NATO was strong, while the EU was weak and indecisive. And after the war began, the people saw that the opposite was true."

The top Ukrainian diplomat also claims that the European Union "gave us a candidate status and prospects of membership, while NATO could not decide on anything"

The reality is that Ukraine has not been given an EU candidate status, because a country needs to live up to certain conditions before attaining such a status.

The EU Parliament has only passed a non-binding resolution that states it would welcome Kyiv's membership application.

It's actually not quite a difficult process to both enter or leaves the EU as Turkey and Britain found out.

The Belarusian President, meanwhile, pointed out that the U.S. and it's Western allies want to prolong the conflict.

Alexander Lukashenko says "all of [NATO & EU] keep shouting about ending war in Ukraine. In public, but what they need there is war, the more of it, the better. In order to drown Russia and us, too, in that war".

Lukashenko also says that the West is not allowing "Ukraine to make a move" to end the conflict.

Russia says U.S. transferring terrorists from Syria to Ukraine

Russia's Foreign Intelligence Service says the United States has been transferring Daesh terrorists from Syria to Ukraine.

The intelligence service said in a statement on Friday that the Daesh terrorists had undergone training in the U.S.-held military base of al-Tanf in Syria.

"At the end of 2021, the Americans released from prisons... several dozen Daesh terrorists, including citizens of Russia and CIS countries. These individuals were sent to the U.S.-controlled al-Tanf base, where they have undergone special training in subversive and terrorist warfare methods with a focus on

the Donbass region," the statement added.

The U.S. military has stationed forces and equipment in eastern and northeastern Syria, with the Pentagon claiming that the deployment is aimed at preventing the oilfields in the area from falling into the hands of Daesh terrorists. Damascus, however, says the unlawful deployment is meant to plunder the country's resources.

The Russian intelligence service also said that most of the Daesh terrorists who have so far been deployed to Ukraine were killed during Russia's military offensive in



the country. However, Washington continues to form new Daesh units

in the Middle East and Africa in order to deploy them to Ukraine via

neighboring Poland.

On Thursday, the Russian Defense Ministry said U.S. military intelligence was stepping up a campaign to recruit mercenaries to fight in Ukraine.

"U.S. military intelligence has launched a large-scale propaganda campaign to recruit PMC [private military company] contractors to be sent to Ukraine. First of all, employees of the American PMCs Academi, Cubic, and Dyn Corporation are being recruited... Only last week, about 200 mercenaries from Croatia arrived through Poland, who joined one of the nationalist battalions in the southeast of

Ukraine," the ministry's spokesman Igor Konashenkov said.

On February 25, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced a military offensive in Ukraine, whose eastern regions broke away in 2014 after refusing to recognize a Western-backed Ukrainian government that had overthrown a democratically-elected Russia-friendly administration.

More than 14,000 people have been killed so far across Ukraine's east as a result of the conflict that ensued between the Ukrainian military and the pro-Russia separatists.

(Source: Press TV)

Iran has 2,000 elements registered as intangible cultural heritage: minister



From page 1 ► UNESCO's list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in near future. They are ancient festivities of Mehregan and Yalda, crafting and playing [the stringed instrument of] the Oud, traditional craft of silk spinning, and Turkmen Duzi (a kind of traditional textile being practiced by Iranian Turkman tribes).

Yalda (the birth of a new sun), which is also called Yalda Night, is celebrated on the eve of the winter solstice, which falls on the last day of Azar (the last month of autumn in the Iranian calendar year). On that graceful night, the winter chill is vanquished and the warmth of love embraces the entire family. It's a time for pleasant family reunions that entails laughter, merriment, and good cheer. According to UNESCO, Yalda ceremonies, in the best way, point to cultural diversity and human creativity, especially when one considers the wide range of the communities that celebrate it.

Mehregan celebration, which falls on the 196th day of the Iranian calendar year that usually equals October 2 in the Gregorian calendar, brings together clusters of Iranian Zoroastrians to hold reunions in celebration of Mithra, an ancient goddess

of friendship, affection, and love. A key feature for the event is large spreads in purple laden with various ingredients, dishes, and elements each on behalf of a particular belief. Fruits, vegetables, dried nuts, sweets, rosewater, grilled lamb meat, lotus seeds, silver coins, and a scale are typically placed, the latter symbolizes autumnal equinox.

The oud is a pear-shaped stringed instrument frequently used in Persian and Middle Eastern music whose construction is similar to that of the lute. It was thought that this musical instrument was invented by nomad tribes since it was light and mobile. Some believe it was originated in the Caucasus region, other sources report more western regions as a point of origin. Some findings show an early elliptical design of Oud found in the ruins of Shush, Iran. Some experts theorize that a priest is shown to be playing it in that depiction.

The Islamic Republic expects to reap a bonanza from its numerous tourist spots such as bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, mausoleums, churches, towers, and mansions, of which 26 are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

Iranian goldsmiths to show off skills at Bukhara festival

TEHRAN – Several Iranian goldsmiths and experts of personal ornamentations will be taking part in an international festival of gold embroidery and jewelry, which will be held in Bukhara, Uzbekistan from May 21 to 25.

The event seeks to promote gold embroidery as a tool to create job opportunities for young people in particular. Moreover, it will embrace

folk festivals, folklore and drama groups, theatrical performances of musicians and comedians, concert programs of artists and master classes by masters, artists' squares, excursion routes.

According to organizers, the jury consists of seven people of art critics, specialists, scientists, folk masters, academics and

Iranian capital getting ready to host new year travelers

TEHRAN – Tehran municipality has formulated several plans and programs to make the Iranian capital ready to host new year travelers during the Noruz holidays.

For the new Iranian year 1401 (starting on March 21), various programs have been set up to promote Tehran tourism, an official with Tehran Municipality said on Friday.

The city will be equipped with tourist buses with the presence of tour guides, particularly in areas with tourist centers, and free tours will be offered, ILNA quoted Mehrshad Kazemi as saying.

Most of the recreational, historical and cultural centers and museums are scheduled to be open to the public during the holidays, he mentioned.

Meanwhile, carnivals featuring

fictional figures from Iranian folklore, such as Uncle Noruz, the herald of spring, and his companion Haji Firuz, will be held and traditional rituals will be performed throughout the city, he added.

He also noted that in collaboration with Kordestan province, some 300 Kurdish daf players will perform on Tabiat Bridge in the heart of the capital.

Milad Tower will also host an ethnic exhibition, and Iranian tribes will set up booths in different parts of Tehran with ethnic products, he mentioned.

It is not the first year that Tehran offers special programs for Noruz travelers, as attempts had been made in previous years to position Tehran as a tourist destination, but the outbreak of the coronavirus and restrictions



on travel in the past two years thwarted efforts, he concluded.

Back in January, the deputy tourism minister announced that the Iranian government should get fully prepared for a surge and potential tsunami of tourism when COVID-restrictions are over.

"Despite not knowing how the coronavirus outbreak will evolve in the future, we ought to plan on hosting tourists during the upcoming holidays of Noruz (Iranian new year)."

Travel and tourism will increase as vaccination becomes a priority around the world and lifestyles align, the official added.

Hugging the lower slopes of the magnificent, snowcapped Alborz Mountains, Tehran is much more than a chaotic jumble of concrete and crazy traffic blanketed by a miasma of air pollution. This is the

nation's dynamic beating heart and the place to get a handle on modern Iran and what its future will likely be.

The metropolis has many to offer its visitors including Golestan Palace, Grand Bazaar, Treasury of National Jewels, National Museum of Iran, Glass & Ceramic Museum, Masoudieh Palace, Sarkis Cathedral, Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, Carpet Museum of Iran, to name a few.

The first time Tehran is mentioned in historical accounts is in an 11th-century chronicle in which it is described as a small village north of Ray. It became the capital city of the Seljuk Empire in the 11th century but later declined with factional strife between different neighborhoods and the Mongol invasion of 1220.

Museum dedicated to historical documents, manuscripts inaugurated in Yazd

TEHRAN – A cultural heritage museum dedicated to historical documents and rare manuscripts was officially inaugurated in Yazd on Friday.

The opening ceremony was attended by Iran's deputy tourism minister Ali-Asghar Shalbafian and a number of local officials and history buffs, IRNA reported.

The museum is home to more than 12,000 documents including historical books, letters, and contracts brought together by Iranian collector Mehraban Puladin, the report said.

In July 2017, the historical structure of the city of Yazd was named a UNESCO World Heritage. Wedged between the northern Dasht-e Kavir and the southern Dasht-e Lut on a flat plain, the oasis city enjoys a very

harmonious public-religious architecture that dates from different eras.

With its winding lanes, a forest of badgirs (wind catchers), mud-brick houses, atmospheric alleyways, and centuries of history, Yazd is a delightful place to stay, referring to as a 'don't miss' destination by almost all travel associates in the region.

Water is brought to the city by the qanat system. Each district of the city is built on a qanat and has a communal center.

The use of earth in buildings includes walls and roofs by the construction of vaults and domes. Houses are built with courtyards below ground level, serving underground areas. Wind-catchers, courtyards, and thick earthen walls create a pleasant microclimate.

Partially covered alleyways together with streets, public squares and courtyards contribute to a pleasant urban quality. The city escaped the modernization trends that destroyed many traditional earthen cities.

It survives today with its traditional districts, the qanat system, traditional houses, bazaars, hammams, water cisterns, mosques, synagogues, Zoroastrian temples, and the historic garden of Dolat-Abad. The city enjoys the peaceful coexistence of three religions: Islam, Judaism, and Zoroastrianism.

Yazd Jameh Mosque, Dowlatabad Garden, the Yazd Atash Behram, also known as Atashkadeh-e Yazd, Towers of Silence, and adjacent desert landscape are among its tourist sites.

the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, regional and Tashkent city administrations, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan, and the "Craftsmen" Association and the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan.

All expenses related to the preparation for the festival are covered from additional sources of the local budget of the Bukhara region, sponsorship donations of legal entities and individuals, as well as other legal sources, organizers say.

Winners will be awarded by the Organizing Committee with a diploma, a souvenir, and



prizes which include \$5,000 for the best gold embroider, \$5,000 for the best jeweler, \$3,000 for best master of embroidery school.

Goldsmiths, a metalworker who specializes in working with gold and other precious metals, must be skilled in forming metal through filing, soldering, sawing, forging, casting, and polishing. Traditionally, these skills had been passed along through apprenticeships; however, more recently jewelry arts schools, specializing in teaching goldsmithing and a multitude of skills falling under the jewelry arts umbrella, are available. Many universities and junior colleges also offer goldsmithing, silversmithing, and metal art fabrication as a part of their fine arts curriculum.

Plane, pistacia trees made national heritage

TEHRAN – Collections of plane and pistacia trees across Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari province have recently been inscribed on the national heritage list.

The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts announced the inscriptions on Saturday in separate letters to the governor-general of the southwestern province, IRNA reported.

For millennia, Iranian gardens have combined the magic of nature with the aesthetic qualities of art and architecture to create a symbolic representation of paradise on Earth. UNESCO describes the Persian Garden

as an idea that combines natural elements with manmade components to materialize the concept of Eden or Paradise on Earth.

In 2011, a selection of nine Iranian gardens, which bear important architectural, traditional, and cultural elements, were collectively inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list under the title of "The Persian Garden."

The genuine concept of the Persian Garden that is deeply rooted in time interweaves natural elements with manmade components to embody an idea of creating a paradise on Earth

by the means of artistic, philosophical, figurative, and religious notions.

According to UNESCO, the flawless design of the Persian Garden, along with its ability to respond to extreme climatic conditions, is the result of an inspired and intelligent application of different fields of knowledge, i.e. technology, water management and engineering, architecture, botany, and agriculture.

Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari has various traditions and rituals related to tribal lifestyles. Special forms of music, dance, and clothing are noteworthy. It

has considerable potential to become a vibrant tourist attraction because of its changing natural landscape.

The province is also a hub for making wool felt products, majorly of which exported abroad. It is home to some 500 crafters, in over 250 workshops, making handmade felt products.

Having an opulent tourist circuit with 26 UNESCO World Heritage sites, of which the vast Hyrcanian Forest and Lut Desert are among the natural properties, Iran seeks to acquire a greater share of the global tourism industry by 2025.

Empowering women at forefront of tourism recovery, UNWTO says

TEHRAN – The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) has formulated guidelines to help both governments and businesses better address the needs of women in the tourism sector.

According to the UN body, the guidelines aim to ensure an inclusive and resilient recovery from the impacts of the pandemic.

"The recently published guidelines continue UNWTO's work on women's empowerment to address gender inequalities."

UNWTO Secretary-General Zurab Pololikashvili says: "The restart of tourism must include everyone and the benefits must be enjoyed by all. Tourism has proven itself a true champion of gender equality and these new guidelines will help both governments and businesses harness the sector's power as a driver of women's empowerment as the world opens up again."

The proposed strategies for the public sector provide specific tools to



support national, regional, local, and other tourism institutions, focusing on policies, programs, and thematic issues in the tourism sector. Meanwhile, the strategy for businesses is intended

to support tourism enterprises of all types and sizes to achieve effective and consistent strategies and programs for gender equality across their operations.

Furthermore, they recognize that, given the disproportionate loss of employment suffered by women, as well as the high proportion of women workers within the tourism and their concentration in lower-skilled and lower-paid jobs, plans for the sector's restart and recovery must address their specific needs.

Invitation To Tender (Tender no. 1400/52)



Client: Tabas Parvadeh Coal Company (Public Joint Stock)

Tender Subject:

Engineering and Procurement of One Complete Set of Hydraulic Props and Related Accessories for Roof Supporting of Underground Coal Excavation Panels

Project Address:

Tabas Parvadeh Coal Mines located in 75km southwest Tabas, Iran

Deadline to Inform Readiness to Receive the Documents:
Latest by 14:00 p.m. (IRST) Saturday March 19, 2022

Notes:

- Tender documents will solely be delivered to Tenderers who inform the Client of readiness for participating in the Tender process by sending a formal letter with the subject of "tender subject and number"; addressed to Tabas Parvadeh Coal Company
- Client's email address: dabir@tpc.co.ir

Deadline to Submit the Offers: Latest by 22:00 p.m. (IRST) on Sunday April 10, 2022

Tender Opening Date: At 10:30 a.m. (IRST) on Monday April 11, 2022

IFRC launches emergency plan to counter drought in Iran

TEHRAN – The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) has launched an emergency appeal to support the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) in response to drought in the country.

Iran faces a range of environmental challenges from high temperatures, pollution, flooding, and vanishing lakes. In April 2021, the Iranian Meteorological Organization warned of an “unprecedented drought” and rainfall levels that were substantially below long-term averages.

This Emergency Appeal will target 800,000 people in the seven most affected provinces, namely South Khorasan, Kerman, Sistan-Baluchestan, Hormozgan, Khuzestan, Isfahan, Khorasan Razavi, among which, three provinces share a border with Afghanistan.

The plan estimates the funding requirements as CHF 9 million.

Assistance will be provided through emergency support in the form of unconditional cash, as well as programs to provide training, materials, and expertise in adapting livelihoods and ensuring those who remain in agriculture and animal husbandry are more resilient to the prevailing climatic conditions.

With respect to health, alongside support through mobile medical teams that reach remote locations to treat and refer patients suffering from sand/dust-induced ailments, the IRCS will engage in psychosocial support to address the feelings of despair and abandonment that losing livelihoods



and migration engender.

In WASH, the focus will be on identifying the most vulnerable and assisting in emergency provisions – a continuation and beefing up of the respected IRCS water donation program – but also working with partners in the Ministry of Energy to roll out training and capacity to allow the population, agriculturalists and those engaged in animal husbandry to make more informed choices about their water usage.

4.8 million people at medium to high risk of drought

The amount of rainfall in Iran’s main river basins from September 2020 to July 2021 was, in most places, substantially lower compared with the year-earlier period. Iran experiences frequent droughts and faces the prospect of more extreme conditions brought about by climate change.

According to current assessments, parts of Iran are facing a rainfall anomaly which has had an observed impact on vegetation and agriculture. Of particular concern is that these drought impacts have been observed in northeastern Iran in areas bordering Afghanistan.

The IRCS estimates that 4.8 million people are at medium to high risk of drought-related impacts,

The IRCS estimates that 4.8 million people are at medium to high risk of drought-related impacts.

The IRCS started its drought response in July 2021 through the support of the IFRC’s Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) with CHF 750,000. This is to support the initial response efforts of IRCS in preventing further deterioration of water insecurity and related health and livelihood issues for households and communities in four provinces until February 2022.

Severity of humanitarian conditions

The IRCS estimates that 4.8 million people are at medium to high risk of drought-related impacts, mostly in remote and rural areas of the provinces.

The drought has brought wide-

spread reliance on water trucking and bottled water for drinking. Many individuals or households have moved from rural to urban areas, resulting in the abandonment of villages in rural areas and the worsening of living conditions in urban areas. People are facing increasingly limited income-generating activities, rising staple food prices, and for those fortunate to have formal accommodation, higher land, and property rents.

The IRCS reports the drought has exacerbated the existing vulnerabilities and social marginalization of women. Drought places additional burdens on women in terms of their responsibilities around household care. Moreover, the migration of predominantly young men distorts the gender balance in the urban centers. There are accounts of this leading to gender-based violence as frustration and despair increase, as well as impacts on the prospects for marriage and natality.

Children are particularly vulnerable, with increased risks to their health, such as skin and eye diseases, cognitive development, in addition to respiratory problems associated with the drought. Mothers, predominantly living in remote villages, regularly tell IRCS volunteers of their children’s ailments and what afflicts other family members, while the IRCS estimates that there has been a threefold increase in recent years in vulnerable children, directly attributable to the airborne dust and lack of access to water for hygiene purposes.

Dust storm from Iraq, Syria and Jordan hits western Iran

From page 1 ► Of this area, about 1.4 million hectares are from arid wetlands and about 2.5 to 3 million hectares are in habitats managed by the Department of Environment. Other areas are in agricultural lands, rangelands, and deserts, which is managed by the Forests, Rangelands, and Watershed Management Organization, he explained.

A 10-year national plan has also been drawn up to deal with internal SDS hotspots, in which the task of all related bodies is specified, he stated, IRNA reported.

The total dust density is estimated at about 150 million tons and 540 kg of specific dust per hectare, which is about 3 times more than the dust generated in the country.

\$2.1 billion damage to 6 provinces

“We conducted a study for 6 provinces of Khuzestan, Ilam, Kermanshah, Sistan-Baluchestan, South Khorasan, and Hormozgan. Based on which, this phenomenon incurred



a loss of about 590 trillion rials (nearly \$2.1 billion) in a 3-year period,” he stated.

The destruction has occurred in different sectors of agriculture, household, industry, health, etc. Studies show that about 54 percent of the total damage was related to various agricultural sub-sectors alone, he lamented, emphasizing, a proper plan can prevent such considerable harm.

€370 million to combat SDSs

In the past four years, about €370 million

has been spent from the National Development Fund to combat SDSs, which had good results, but it seems that the annual credit is declining as conditions improve, he added.

Last [Iranian calendar] year (March 2019-March 2020), €100 million was earmarked in this regard, but the next year’s budget bill has proposed €20 million for SDS mitigation, which experts believe will even destroy those measures, he explained.

“However, various measures have been taken to fight the phenomenon, including, planting seedlings on about 26,000 hectares of dust centers in the past three years, as well as managing grazing in 2 million hectares of the protected areas and natural resources.”

Conservation agriculture (sustainable agriculture) was conducted on 160,000 hectares of farming lands, in addition to 100,000 hectares of dredging, he concluded.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

‘Green taxes not used for environmental development’

While the Municipality of Tehran receives green taxes paid by pollutant industries, the money is not used for developing the environment or improving the industries, Ali Moridi, head of department of environment’s (DOE) soil and water office has said.

The DOE is trying to revise the law and receive green taxes to use it toward eradicating air and water pollution, wastewater treatment and environmental issues, along with technology and industries improvement, he said, IRNA reported on Tuesday.

Referring to proper laws adopted on waste management, he stated that there are rules which obliges the waste management affairs of the DOE to make the manufacturing and import industries pay taxes and spend the taxes on waste management and recycling.

عوارض آلاینده‌گی صرف ارتقای محیط زیست نمی‌شود

مدیرکل دفتر آب و خاک سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست گفت: عوارض اخذ شده از صنایع آلاینده در محل خودش و با هدف رفع چالش محیط زیست هزینه نمی‌شود.

به گزارش خبرنگار علمی ایرنا، «علی مریدی» سه شنبه افزود: در سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست در تلاش برای بازنگری این قانون هستیم تا زمینه‌ای فراهم شود عوارض آلاینده‌گی به حساب صندوق ملی محیط زیست وارد و صرف حل مسایل زیست محیطی شود و بتوانیم به صنایع برای ارتقای فناوری و تصفیه پساب‌ها کمک کنیم.

مدیرکل دفتر آب و خاک سازمان حفاظت ادامه داد: البته قوانین خوبی در زمینه مدیریت پسماند تصویب شده است که سازمان محیط زیست را مکلف کرده تا از صنایع تولیدی و وارداتی درصدی را به عنوان مالیات اخذ و به صندوق ملی محیط زیست واریز کند تا صرف هزینه پسماند و بازیافت شود.

Charity supports 1,100 knowledge-based job plans

TEHRAN – Barekat Charity Foundation, affiliated with the Headquarters for Executing the Order of the Imam, has launched 1,100 knowledge-based job plans across the country.

“We have launched 180,000 community-based projects in the country, which have directly and indirectly created job opportunities for 540,000 people, which have cost 200 trillion rials (nearly \$740 million),” Mohammad Torkamaneh, the CEO of Barekat Foundation said.

The foundation is providing services to job applicants in 10,000 villages and 400 cities across the country, he further stated.

To date, the Barekat Foundation has partnered, invested, provided facilities, and supported 850 medium-sized industrial enterprises across the country, creating business opportunities for more than 211,000 people.

Some 120,000 community-based projects with a budget of 115 trillion rials (nearly \$425 million) have been launched in deprived areas, which has created employment for 360,000 people.

Recently, the Foundation announced to open up 9,300 jobs for persons with disabilities.

The number of villages covered by the foundation’s employment activities next year will reach 20,000 villages, equivalent to 50 percent of the country’s villages, and also will include small towns with a population of less than 30,000, he explained.

Headquarters for Executing the Order of the Imam was founded in 1989. In the Iranian calendar year, 1386 (March 2017-March 2018) Barekat Charity Foundation- the social arm of the organization- with the aim of promoting social justice was established.

Socio-economic empowerment of commu-



nities by encouraging entrepreneurship prioritizing breadwinner women, developing infrastructures such as water supply and power grids, building roads, constructing schools and increasing educational spaces, promoting health for all, granting non-repayable loans and insurance, especially in less developed areas and regions most affected by 1980s war and natural disasters are of the priorities of the charity foundation.

There are more than 6,200 knowledge-based companies operating in the country, offering advanced products and services in various fields of technology to domestic and foreign markets, and some of them have entered international markets, Siavash Maleki, deputy head of the Innovation and Prosperity Fund, has said.

The fields of aircraft maintenance, steel, pharmaceuticals, medical equipment, oil, and gas are among the sectors that researchers in technology companies have engaged in, leading to import reduction.

The country’s knowledge-based ecosystem accounts for more than 3 percent of GDP. And the figure is projected to reach 5 percent, however, the main goal is to step toward a 10 percent share in GDP, Sourena Sattari, vice president for science and technology, has said.

The influence of Avicenna on medical studies in the West

Part 5

It was a main source for many medical manuals and monographs and it was sometimes also taken as a model of form; for example, the collection of medical counsels by Ferrari of Grado (Venice, 1514 and several times reedited) is arranged according to the method of Avicenna.

The Canon was one of the medical books most frequently printed in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. Incunabula from before 1500 were for the most part printed in Italy; they comprise eleven complete editions (among which the five-volume Venice edition of 1490-95 is supplemented with commentaries by various authors) and two partial editions.

The earliest printed edition (1472) consists only of Canon 3, the Bologna edition (1482) only of Canon 4.1, 3-5. A Hebrew version was printed at Naples in 1491-92. Up to 1608, fourteen more complete editions of the Latin version were printed, including three with commentaries, as well as an epitome by Michael Capella (Flores Avicennae, Lyons, 1508, 1514) and an alphabetically arranged adaptation by Gabriel of Tarrega (Bordeaux, 1520, 1524).

To these must be added excerpts published in compilations, particularly collected doctrines of the three principal authorities, Avicenna, Galen, and Hippocrates, and the lemmata in the numerous commentaries. The original Arabic text was printed at Rome at 1593, but like all products of the Medici press was intended primarily for export to the East.

Most of the printed editions of the Canon included two other works of Avicenna which played a minor role in university teaching. These were De viribus cordis (initially in the Padian edition of 1476, but also printed separately at Lyons in 1527 with a commentary by Jaime López of Calatayud) and the Cantica (initially in the Venetian edition of 1482-83).

The Cantica and Ebn Roæd’s (Averroes’) commentary on them were printed together at Venice, 1483, and in Ebn Roæd’s Opera at Venice, 1484, and were included with the other principal texts from the Canon in some printings of the textbook Articella (e.g., Venice, 1509; Lyons, 1519, 1534).

(Source: Encyclopedia Iranica)

(To be continued)

COVID-19 UPDATES ON MARCH 4

New cases	4,089
New deaths	154
Total cases	7,084,306
Total deaths	137,747
New hospitalized patients	912
Patients in critical condition	3,983
Total recovered patients	6,719,004
Diagnostic tests conducted	47,647,542
Doses of vaccine injected	142,537,180

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MARCH 6, 2022

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

An ignorant person will always overdo a thing or neglect it totally.
Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:12:16 Evening: 18:22 Dawn: 5:03 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:27 (tomorrow)

Jalal ad-Din Rumi: philosophy

Part 5

Given that tawhid demands that “There is no beloved but God,” how can human beings be God’s beloved? This is like asking how they can “exist” despite the fact that there is no existence but God, or how they can be creative, despite the fact that there is no creator but God.

In the last analysis, people’s existence derives from God’s existence, as do all their attributes and qualities. “God created us in His own form: Our description takes instruction from His description” (Masnavi).

Thus God is the “meaning” of the human being, man’s true reality, and human beings are the “forms” of God, his external manifestations, what the Quran calls his “vicegerents” (kholafa; caliphs).

Rumi tells us that God desired in eternity to manifest himself, so “He made a vicegerent (khalifa)... to be the mirror of His kingship”.

Whatever appears in man is God’s reflection, “like the moon in a stream”. Again, as the hadith has it, “God is beautiful and He loves beauty,” and this means, as Rumi explains, “How could a young man choose an old crone?”.

God loves human beings because they alone make manifest the entire range of his “most beautiful names,” while everything else is at best a partial reflection of real beauty.

“When God causes someone to have knowledge of Him and be familiar with Him, moment by moment he observes the self-disclosures of God and His ineffable beauty from the astrolabe of his own existence—that Beauty will never be absent from his mirror” (Fih).

“These beauties painted on canvas veil the beauties of the heart—lift up the veil and enter: Be with your own Beloved!” (Divan). As the refrain of one ghazal has it, “Return to the root of the root of your own self!”, that root is the meaning that gave rise to you as its form.

(3). Man as lover”: The general principle here is that all things are animated by love (as Avicenna had explained, and Aristotle before him).

“Love” is simply a name given to the force that drives things to seek their ultimate good, their final end, their telos. A Quranic proof that love animates all things is the fact that God created everything in “pairs” (Q. 51:49).

His wisdom “has paired all parts of the world and set them in love with their mates”. Everything is driven by its own desires—“Everyone was made for a task, love for it was placed in his heart”.

“God tells the rose, ‘Celebration is best!’ He says to the cloud, ‘Weeping is best!’” (Divan). Rumi explains that in the human case, the aspirations and desires that grow up in the garden of the soul are God’s attributes, placed there because the Hidden Treasure wanted to be known (Majales).

The final object of everyone’s love is God, but few people know this. The

problem is ignorance, the solution knowledge. Imitative knowledge is not sufficient; catechisms and creeds, philosophies and theologies, rules and regulations, all have their role to play, but none can drive the seeker to the goal.

Achieving realization demands harnessing the fire of love to burn away the others. The way to harness love is set down in the already mentioned verse, “Say: ‘If you love God, follow me, and God will love you.”

The path of following the Prophet (S) is that of self-negation, of surrendering totally to love for God. Rumi describes this path with a host of images and scriptural supports, such as the purported hadith, “Die before you die.”

One of the many well-known Sufi symbols that he uses here is the heart as mirror (prefigured in the Quran, which speaks of the heart’s “rust,” [Q. 83:14]).

It is the power of love that “scrapes rust from mirrors” (Divan). Once polished, “the heart acts as a receptacle for infinite pictures.... For the heart is with Him—indeed, the heart is He” (Masnavi).

In one story, Rumi tells of the man who heard of the incredible beauty of Joseph (AS) and undertook a long journey to Egypt to see him. Arriving in his presence, he presented him with a mirror, so that Joseph (AS) could contemplate his own beauty. The moral is clear: “What is the mirror of Being? Nonbeing. Take nonbeing [as your gift to God] if you are not stupid” (Masnavi).

In classical Sufi terminology, achieving nonexistence is called fana, “annihilation” of self, which is the complement of baqa, the “subsistence” of the purified form in which God created Adam.

Rumi contrasts existence and nonexistence using this pair of terms as well as several others, always circling back to the notion of love. One of these pairs is need (niaz) and the lack of need (naz).

Love is “want and need for something” (Fih). In Persian poetry need is the typical attribute of the lover, who longs for his beloved, who has no needs and shows this through her haughtiness and disdain, not to speak of coquettish glances and subtle come-ons.

Rumi makes clear that need is not only a synonym for love, but also for one of the most typical designations of the Sufi path, faqr or darvishi, “poverty.”

Like many other Sufi teachers, he takes poverty as an existential fact that must be understood and realized. When God says, “O people, you are the poor toward God, and He is the Rich, the Praiseworthy” (Q. 35:15), he is declaring the nothingness of the human soul in face of Being.

The Sufi path aims at realizing this nothingness. “Poverty is not for the sake of hardship; rather, it is because there is nothing but God” (Masnavi).

(Source: Encyclopedia Iranica)
(To be continued)

Magnificent Persian songs echo in Zagreb concert hall during Iran-Croatia diplomatic gala

From Page 1 ▶ Cultural advisors to Croatian President Zoran Milanovic, Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic’s special representative, the Croatian ambassador to Tehran, the Iranian ambassador to Zagreb, and many economic and cultural figures attended the concert.

The Zagreb Philharmonic Orchestra also performed “Zarathustra Spitama” on October 23, 2020 to celebrate its 150th anniversary.

In a statement for the concert, Rahbari referred to “Also Sprach Zarathustra”, a tone poem by Richard Strauss, composed in 1896 and inspired by Friedrich Nietzsche’s philosophical 1883–1885 novel, “Thus Spoke Zarathustra”, and said, “Regarding the two greats, Nietzsche and Strauss, I did not dare to compose music inspired by the words of Zarathustra until in 2018.

“Mr. Barbad Bayat encouraged me to deal

Zagreb Philharmonic Orchestra performs the symphonic poem “Zarathustra Spitama” at the Vatroslav Lisinski Concert Hall on March 4, 2022, to celebrate the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Iran and Croatia.

with the words of the great Zarathustra, which ultimately spawned this symphony inspired by Persian music, and after much effort and thorough research, I finally composed an exceptional and extremely melodious symphonic poem about Zarathustra for tenor, choir and symphony orchestra.

“Spitama is actually the surname of a Zoroastrian family. After finishing the song, I decided to present it to the Croatian people who boast of

their Persian origins. My wife, with whom I have four children, is also a Croat and they were all delighted with my decision.

“I would also like to express my satisfaction that this is happening during the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Zagreb Philharmonic, which I conducted for many years, and for two years I was its chief conductor, and the members of the orchestra were extremely close to my heart.”

Fajr Festival of Visual Arts wraps up honoring top works

TEHRAN – The 14th Fajr Festival of Visual Arts ended on Friday with the honoring of the top works in ten categories.

Winners received their awards in a closing ceremony held at Tehran’s Vahdat Hall.

The Golden Tooba for best painting was awarded to Paria Malmir, while Hadi Faqihi received the award in the Persian painting (miniature) category.

Ehsan Cheraghi Iranshahi was named the best cartoonist of the festival and Nasrin Shapuri Azari was picked as best sculptor.

The Golden Tooba in the graphic design category was shared by Mohammadreza Chitsaz, Mikail Barati and Sadeq Ili.

Saber Qazi won the award for best photographer and Elaheh Abdollahzadeh was the winner of the new arts section.

The award in the ceramics category went to Mohammadreza Ravandeh and Maryam Sadat Siadat was named best illustrator.

Mohammad Fateh Natanzi won the best calligrapher award.

Speaking during the closing ceremony, Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance

An artist holds his award during the closing ceremony of the 14th Fajr Festival of Visual Arts at Tehran’s Vahdat Hall on March 4, 2022. (Honaronline/Raha Ahmadi)

Mohammad-Mehdi Esmaeili praised the organizers for holding the festival’s exhibitions for the first time across the country.

“One of the advantages of this year’s festival was organizing its provincial exhibits, which represented the government’s cultural justice,” he said.

He asked the organizers to give more attention to this aspect of the festival in the

upcoming editions.

“We saw a younger generation of artists beside the veteran artists in this edition of the festival, and if the festival seeks a stronger educational policy we can see a great number of promising young artists in the future,” Esmaeili said.

He stressed the need for more attention to the art market and called it an absolute necessity for strengthening art diplomacy.

“We have comprehensive plans to develop the country’s art market and will take great steps in this direction in the near future, because we know that we attract a large number of people with the language of art,” he noted.

President Ebrahim Raisi also showed his positive attitude towards art by visiting “Mirror on the Mirror”, an exhibition of the 14th Fajr Festival of Visual Arts organized at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art.

He also emphasized the necessity for developing the art market to improve artists’ standard of living, and asked the culture ministry to provide the necessary facilities to offer artworks in an appropriate way.

Muscat to host Iranian film festival

TEHRAN – The Omani capital city of Muscat will be playing host to an Iranian film festival from March 7 to 9.

A lineup of five films, including “The Maritime Silk Road” directed by Mohammad Bozorgnia and “Copper and Gold” by Homayun As’adian, will be screened during the festival, which will be held at the Oman Film Society.

“The Maritime Silk Road” is about Soleiman Siraf, a man who, according to historical documents, was the first sailor to cross the Indian Ocean to China. His route was later called the Maritime Silk Road and many merchants took that route to ship their merchandise to China.

“Copper and Gold” follows Seyyed Reza, a mullah in training struggling to take care of his ailing wife Zahra and their children.

“A Cradle for the Mother” directed by Panahbarkhoda Rezai.

The film puts a human face on an Iranian Muslim cleric with its unusual tale of a man forced to become a better husband and father. Seyyed Reza has just moved with his family to Tehran to study and he relies on his wife to look after everything else. Their lives change dramatically when his wife, Zahra, is diagnosed with a progressive disease that results in paralysis.

Memories and views of Ayatollah Sayyid Radhi al-Husayni al-Shirazi

By Mohammad Reza Kaini

This year, which we are in the last days of, was full of bitter events, and one of them was the loss of Ayatollah Sayyid Radhi al-Husayni al-Shirazi, and “on the Way of Wisdom” is about his views and memories. This book’s content was compiled by one of his best students, Muhammad Rahimi, and edited by Morteza Rasoulipour, a contemporary Iranian history researcher. Rasoulipour also provided the following note about this book:

“The book that is being presented to the public is the result of several interviews and initial arrangements by Mohammad Rahimi, one of the students of Ayatollah Sayyid Radhi

al-Shirazi in the years 2000-2001. It includes information such as a biography of the Shirazi family, tobacco protest, his students, studying in the seminaries of Najaf and Tehran, teaching in Tehran university, expulsion from university and resignation from teaching due to SAVAK,

meeting Imam Khomeini in Najaf and Paris, fighting against the Baha’is and Marxist groups, the details of his assassination on July 14, 1979, by the Forqan group, hospitalization in Iran and United Stated hospitals, educating students, and a review of his books. The interviewee also had a habit of jumping from one subject to another in his narrative of past anecdotes and incidents and then returning to the same beginning point, and the reason was his scientific and well-organized mind, and his strong memory, as the readers will observe; however, the editor did his best to write the events in order.

The book “ on the Way of Wisdom “ has been published in 230 pages by Soore Mehr publication.